

7

center section **324b** and have a different shape, such as circular, to work with food with pits of another shape.

Referring to FIGS. **21-24**, fifth exemplary covers **414** and **416** are shown. Covers **414** and **416** are similar to covers **214** and **216** previously discussed except covers **414**, **416** have base **424** that may be flat. As a result, covers **414** and **416** function like cover **116** of FIG. **4**. In FIG. **22**, cover **414** may be nested within cover **416**.

Referring to FIGS. **25-26**, sixth and seventh exemplary covers **514** and **614** are shown. Covers **514** and **614** may be configured like covers **116** of FIG. **7**, previously discussed except covers **514**, **614** may be configured and dimensioned to accommodate foods such as bread **516** and meat **616**, respectively.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for designing other products. Therefore, the claims are not to be limited to the specific examples depicted herein. For example, the features of one example disclosed above can be used with the features of another example. Covers **12**, **14**, **16**, **110**, **112**, **114**, **116**, **214**, **216**, **314**, **414**, **416**, **514**, **614**, and covers shown in FIGS. **27-72** may be formed of by the same method and materials as discussed with respect to cover **10**. For example, decoration and/or text can be used on any examples. This decoration such as images and/or text can be formed on the covers during molding. Exemplary decoration is shown in, for example FIG. **56**. Moreover, providing the covers in different colors in a set or the same color may be used in any of the examples. Sets of covers may be of the same size and shape, so they cannot nest or can be of different shapes and sizes so that they may be nestable. Covers of each exemplary configuration may be formed in a variety of sizes and depths, so that they can be used with a variety of foods or to act as a reusable cover on dishes and food storage vessels. Alternate versions of this invention might support food preservation applications that are not described above. Alternate versions of the covers may be scaled to cover other food items. Thus, the details of these components as set forth in the above-described examples, should not limit the scope of the claims.

The inventors hereby describe and possess the overall appearance shown in FIGS. **1-72** and any and all parts and/or portions thereof. FIGS. **27-72** may include color, text/logos, images, CAD lines, lead lines, dimension lines and jagged/pixelated edge lines that may not be part of the design. In FIGS. **40**, **67**, and **69-70**, the white color of the base or bottom is not part of the claimed design and is clearly illustrated in the corresponding perspective views. The inventors and/or the Applicant reserve the right to create line drawings from any of the FIGS. **1-72**.

Further, the purpose of the Abstract is to enable the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The Abstract is neither intended to define the claims of the application nor is intended to be limiting on the claims in any way.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A cover for covering food comprising:

a base;

a flexible wall extending upwardly from and surrounding said base to define a chamber with an opening, said flexible wall having an initial state where the opening is a first size and having a final state where the opening is a second size different from said first size;

8

wherein the flexible wall includes a first section that extends upwardly from the base, the first section having a bottom portion attached to the base, and a top edge spaced from the bottom portion;

the flexible wall also comprising a second section that extends radially inwardly from the top edge of the first section;

wherein the first section has a first thickness and the second section has a second thickness, and wherein the first thickness is greater than the second thickness;

whereby upon inserting food within said chamber, said flexible wall moves from said initial state to said final state and a first seal is created between the food and the cover;

wherein said base further includes a first section having a first thickness and a second section having a second thickness less than said first thickness, said second section being located at approximately a center of said first section; and

wherein said base further includes a third section, wherein the third section comprises a hinge portion, and wherein the hinge portion is configured to allow the second section to transition between a convex state and a concave state.

**2.** The cover of claim **1**, wherein said base and said flexible wall are formed of a single, unitary material.

**3.** The cover of claim **2**, wherein said material is silicone.

**4.** The cover of claim **1**, whereby upon inserting food within said chamber, an exposed surface of the food contacts at least a portion of the base to form a second seal between the food and the cover.

**5.** The cover of claim **1**, wherein said base has a generally circular shape.

**6.** The cover of claim **1**, wherein the second section of the flexible wall is configured to form the first seal with the food.

**7.** The cover of claim **1**, wherein the second section of the flexible wall includes a slit.

**8.** The cover of claim **7**, wherein the second section of the flexible wall is configured to bend inwardly when food is inserted into the cover.

**9.** A cover for covering food comprising:

a base;

a flexible wall extending upwardly from and surrounding said base to define a chamber with an opening, said flexible wall having an initial state where the opening is a first size and having a final state where the opening is a second size different from said first size;

whereby upon inserting food within said chamber, said flexible wall moves from said initial state to said final state and a first seal is created between the food and the cover; and

wherein said base includes a first section having a first thickness, a second section having a second thickness less than said first thickness, a third section having a third thickness less than said second thickness, said second section being shaped like a hemisphere, and said third thickness allows said second section to have a concave state or a convex state, said second section being located at approximately a center of said first section.

**10.** A set of covers for covering food comprising,

a first cover and a second cover;

the first cover including a first base and a first flexible wall, the first flexible wall comprising a first section and a second section, the first section extending upwardly and surrounding the first base to define a first chamber with an opening, wherein the second section of the first flex-